



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 21-1818-UF

Version Type: ORIGINAL
VERSION

Report Date: 4/21/2021 11:15
AM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: Aransas Pass
Police Dept.

Agency Address: 600 Cleveland Blvd.

Agency City: Aransas Pass

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 78336

Director Information

Director Salutation: Chief

Director First Name: Eric

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: Blanchard

Reporter Name: Eric Blanchard

Reporter Email: chief@aptx.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Antonio

Middle Name: C

Last Name: Cantu Cantu

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 5/5/1968

Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 52

Date/Time of Custody (arrest, incarceration) (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Date/Time of Custody or
Incident: 4/19/2021 9:38 PM

Date/Time of Death (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Death Date and Time: 4/19/2021 9:38 PM

Manner / Cause of Death

Has a medical examiner or coroner conducted an evaluation to determine a cause of death?

Medical Examiner/Coroner
Evaluation?: Yes, results are
available

What was the manner of death? (select only one)

Manner of Death: Homicide (includes
Justifiable

Homicide)

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Multiple gunshot wounds

Had the decedent been receiving treatment for the medical condition that caused the death after admission to your jail's jurisdiction?

Medical Treatment: Unknown

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, who caused the death?

Who caused the death?: Law
enforcement/correctional
personnel

If a weapon caused the death, what type of weapon caused the death? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of weapon that caused
death?: Handgun

Was the cause of death the result of a pre-existing medical condition or did the decedent develop the condition after admission?

Pre existing medical
condition?: Not Applicable;
cause of death was
accidental injury,
intoxication, suicide
or homicide

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, what was the means of death?

Means of Death: Firearm

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 1307 W. Wheeler Avenue

City: Aransas Pass

County: San Patricio

Zip: 78336

What location category best describes where the event causing the death occurred?

Location Category: Business

What type of custody/facility was the Decedent in at the time of death:

Type of Custody: Pre-Custodial Use of Force

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

Custody of Law Enforcement Personnel during/fleeing arrest

What was the time and date of the deceased's entry into the law enforcement facility where the death occurred (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Entry Date Time: 4/19/2021 9:38 PM

Where did the death occur?

Death Location: Scene of incident

General Information

Did any other law enforcement agencies respond to calls for service related to this incident?

Other Agencies Respond?: Yes

What were the most serious offense(s) with which the deceased was (or would have been) charged with at the time of death?

Offense 1:

Attempted Capital Murder

Offense 2:

Deadly Conduct, Discharging a Firearm

Offense 3:

Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon

Were the Charges:: Not filed at time of death

What were the types of charges or reason for contact? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of Offense: Violent Crime
Against Persons;
Alcohol / drug
offense; Medical /
Mental Health
assistance call

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent display or use a weapon?

Decedent display/use of weapons: Yes, mark all that apply

Decedent Display or Use Weapon Details: Discharged firearm

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Attempt to Injure Others?: Yes (select all that apply)

Ways Decedent Attempted To Injure Others: Attempted to injure law enforcement personnel; Attempted to injure civilian(s) or other inmate(s)

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs):	Yes	Make suicidal statements?:	No
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	Unknown	Exhibit any medical problems?:	Unknown

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Barricade self or initiate standoff?:	Yes	Resist being handcuffed or arrested?:	N/A
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	Yes	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	No
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	No	Escape or attempt to escape/flee custody:	N/A
Attempt gain possession officer's weapon:	No		

Was the deceased under restraint in the time leading up to the death or the events causing the death?

Under Restraint: Yes, mark which restraint devices were used

Type of restraint

Type of Restraint: Other device, specify

Other device, specify: He placed himself inside and demanded to remain secured in the rear of the police vehicle.

Summary of Incident

Summary of How the Death Occurred: (max. 30,000 characters)

Summary:

APPD received several calls for a suspicious subject on a public highway. The subject was making his way towards the Circle K Store located at 1307 W. Wheeler Avenue. The subject was described as being excitedly upset about being chased. One caller said he seemed to be under the influence of narcotics.

Officers were rerouted to the Circle K where the subject arrived and requested police officers. The subject was contacted by the first arriving officer. The subject agreed to walk out of the store with the officer but then tried to get into the front right passenger seat of the officer's police truck. The officer stopped him so the subject went to the right rear passenger side to get in. The officer assisted the door on the patrol truck and the subject jumped inside and yelled at the officers both in English and Spanish to keep the doors shut. The officers tried to see what the issue was for several minutes, but the subject would only yell aggressively at them to shut the door or keep it shut. The subject appeared, from my view of body cam footage, to be either experiencing delusions of things or people that were not present. It could not be determined if those delusions were from a mental health issue or a drug-related one.

As the officers were preparing how to address the apparent mental health/drug crisis event, the subject pulled out a gun he had concealed on his person and started shooting indiscriminately out of the front of the police truck. Officers took cover behind the truck and tried de-escalating the subject for several moments. The subject declined to listen and continued to shoot his firearm. At one point, an uninvolved vehicle pulled into the gas station, took a bullet, and immediately backed out and fled the scene.

After failed attempts to reason with the male subject, he turned his firearm towards the officers and began shooting at them. Both male officers responded by shooting the subject several times until the threat was over. A third officer reported firing her pistol, but that statement wasn't verified after examining her weapon.

The subject died as a result of multiple gunshot wounds. The investigation is ongoing.

*** Updated 10/18/2021 to include findings from the ME's office (ME Case #21-1027SC - Nueces County Dr. Ray Fernandez)